

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCEM-02 SCI-06 TRSE-00 EB-11 COME-00

CIEP-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /148 W
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R 221346Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9462

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18410

DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO AND TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, XF

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS TO BONN

1. ACCORDING TO FONOFF MID-EAST DIRECTOR, REDIES,
GERMANS WERE IMPRESSED BY THE MODERATION SHOWN BY THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE SUDAN AND OF THE UNITED ARAB
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EMIRATES, WHO VISITED BONN DECEMBER 19-20 IN THE WAKE

OF THEIR VISIT TO THE EC SUMMIT. NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN. ARABS EMPHASIZED THAT DEEDS, NOT WORDS, ARE NOW REQUIRED OF EUROPEANS. GERMANS REPLIED THAT OIL EMBARGO MAKES AN EFFECTIVE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO MID-EAST SETTLEMENT MORE DIFFICULT AND COULD IN OTHER WAYS DAMAGE RATHER THAN HELP ARAB CAUSE.

2. ARAB REPS STRESSED OPPORTUNITIES EUROPEANS HAVE TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL THROUGH IMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. WHILE US WAS ISRAEL'S MAIN POLITICAL PARTNER ON WORLD STAGE, THEIR ARGUMENT WENT, A LARGE PART OF ISRAEL'S FOREIGN TRADE WAS WITH EUROPE. ARABS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BEGIN HINTING TO ISRAELI AT POSSIBILITY THAT ISRAEL'S DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION IN AFRICA COULD BECOME CATCHING AND EXTEND TO EUROPE.

3. MAIN INTERLOCUTOR ON GERMAN SIDE WAS STATE SECRETARY FRANK OF FONOFF; VISIT WITH BRANDT WAS LARGELY UNSUBSTANTIVE. FRANK GAVE THREE REASONS WHY OIL EMBARGO WAS INJURIOUS NOT ONLY TO INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS BUT TO ARABS THEMSELVES: (A) IT MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE EUROPEANS, FACED AS THEY WERE WITH AN ECONOMIC CRISIS OF CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL, TO ADOPT A UNIFIED POLICY ON THE MID-EAST. BUT IT WAS ONLY THROUGH SUCH A UNIFIED POLICY THAT EUROPE COULD INFLUENCE THE ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT.

(B) IT CREATED DIFFICULTIES IN EUROPE'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES, NOT ONLY BY DISRUPTING EUROPEAN ECONOMIES BUT BY MAKING MORE EXPENSIVE THOSE GOODS WHICH ARABS WISHED TO IMPORT FROM EUROPE.

(C) EUROPEAN GOODS WOULD BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE NOT ONLY FOR THE ARABS BUT FOR OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL. THIS FACT CONTAINED SEEDS OF DISCORD BETWEEN OIL-RICH ARABS AND THEIR LESS BLESSED BRETHREN, WHETHER IN ARABIA OR ELSEWHERE.

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO AND SECRETARY'S PARTY.
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